

Message Text

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SUBJ: MAVROS SCORES SUPREME COURT DECISION AND
AGAIN PROPOSES NON-AGGRESSION TREATY WITH TURKEY

REF A. ATHENS 5015 B. ATHENS 4916

1. SUMMARY. GEORGE MAVROS, SPEAKING TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS ON JULY 9, JOINED THE CHORUS OF OPPOSITION CRITICS OF THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON THE 104 HIGH OFFICIALS WHO SERVED THE JUNTA (REF A). THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE REBUTTED IMMEDIATELY ARGUING THAT MAVROS AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE BASIC DECISIONS REGARDING THE PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. A GOG SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT IN A SEPARATE PRESS STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD ON "DEJUNTIZATION" WAS GOOD AND NEARLY ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APRIL 21 COUP WERE EITHER IN JAIL OR AWAITING TRIAL. MAVROS ALSO REPEATED HIS PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION TREATY WITH TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

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2. CU/NF OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS AT A LUNCHEON FOR PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL EDITORS ON JULY 9 JOINED PASOK AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE DEJUNTIZATION QUESTION. MAVROS CHARGED THAT THE SUPREME COURT DECISION THAT THE APRIL 21, 1967 COUP WAS "INSTANTANEOUS" AND NOT "CONTINUING" (AND AS A RESULT THOSE WHO HELD HIGH OFFICE UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP WERE NOT LIABLE TO PROSECUTION) HAD BROUGHT THE COURT INTO SHARP OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC FEELING. MAVROS SAID THAT HE BLAMED THE GOG WHOSE POLICY HAD LED THE COURT TO ISSUE SUCH A RULING. MAVROS DECLARED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE EARLIER SUGGESTION OF THE CU/NF TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL JUDICIAL ORGAN FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS OF THE SEVERN-YEAR TYRANNY(MADE AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTION) AND HAD NOT LEFT THE MATTER TO THE INITIATIVE OF INDIVIDUALS, THE QUESTION OF CLEANSING WOULD HAVE COME TO AN END AND THE COUNTRY COULD HAVE MOVED ON TO DEAL WITH MAJOR NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

3. SEVERAL HOURS LATER MAVROS RECEIVED A SHARP REBUTTAL FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE STEPHANAKIS. THE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT MAVROS WOULD HAVE PROPOSED AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE (SUCH AS INTRODUCING NEW LAWS) HAD IT BEEN FEASIBLE LAST FALL WHEN HE WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. STEPHANAKIS ADDED THAT MAVROS HAD SIGNED THE CONSTITUENT ACT REGARDING THE PROTAGONISTS OF THE CRIME OF HIGH TREASON AND INSURRECTION AND RECOGNIZED AFTERWARDS THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DICTATORSHIP SHOULD BE TRIED ON THE BASIS OF THE LEGISLATION IN FORCE ON APRIL 21, 1967. IN A SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE, A GOG SOURCE COMMENTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PASSED LEGISLATION DEFINING THE APRIL 21, 1967 EVENT AS A "COUP" AND NOT A "REVOLUTION". JUSTICE HAD TAKEN ITS COURSE AND THE GOG HAD PROCEEDED AT A GOOD PACE IN THE CLEANSING PROCESS, BOTH PENALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY. THE SAME SOURCE STRESSED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEARLY ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP WERE EITHER IN JAIL OR AWAITING TRIAL.

4. IN HIS MEETING WITH THE EDITORS MAVROS ALSO ADDRESSED HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL (REF B) FOR A NON-AGGRESSION TREATY BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HE SAID THE PROPOSAL HAD STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND

ABROAD. MAVROS REPEATED THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A TREATY WOULD BE TO REDUCE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, GRADUALLY DIMINISH ARMS EXPENDITURES, CREATE A CLIMATE OF MUTUAL TRUST ALLOWING BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ALLOW TOURISM TO EGAIN ITS NORMAL LEVELS. MAVROS POINTED OUT THAT AT THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT MEETING, THE GREEK AND TURKISH PREMIERS DECLARED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RECOURSE TO FORCE. A TREATY WOULD IMPLEMENT WHAT HAD BEEN SAID THERE, HE ADDED.

5. CONTINUING MAVROS REMARKED THAT WERE TURKEY TO ATTACK GREECE, GREECE WOULD RETALIATE WITH LIGHTNING SPEED. HE ADDED THAT GREECE, HOWEVER, WOULD NEVER ATTACK TURKEY BECAUSE IT HAD NO DESIGNS ON ANY PORTION OF TURKISH TERRITORY. MAVROS COMMENTED THAT NATO CREDIBILITY WAS PUT TO A HARD TEST WHEN TWO MEMBER-COUNTRIES WERE ENGAGED IN AN ARMS RACE IN EXPECTATION OF A MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

6. COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN THE PRESS AND IN POLITICAL CIRCLES OVER THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION OF JULY 2, BOTH CRITICAL AND IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION. THE COURT RULED ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTION WHETHER THE APRIL 21 COUP WAS "INSTANTANEOUS" OR "CONTINUOUS". BY RULING THE FORMER, ONLY THE ORIGINAL COUP LEADERS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUP ITSELF. THAT THOSE WHO SERVED THE JUNTA AS MINISTERS CANNOT BE PROSECUTED FOR THIS SPECIFIC CHARGE HAS PROVIDED POLITICAL AMMUNITION TO THE OPPOSITION.

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7. MAVROS' CONTINUING TO HAMMER AWAY AT HIS PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, A NON-STARTER SO FAR, SUGGESTS THAT THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, OR AT LEAST ITS LEADER, IS HUNGRY FOR AN ISSUE. THIS ONE HAS BROUGHT ALMOST ZERO PUBLIC RESPONSE AND NO OFFICIAL REACTION, AND IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO. KUBISCH

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